



Press Release

**Congressman John Conyers, Jr.
Michigan, 14th District**



**Ranking Member, U.S. House
Judiciary Committee
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/index.html

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During PATRIOT Act Debate, House Republicans Reject Anti-Terrorism and Pro-Law Enforcement Measures

Representative John Conyers, Jr., (D-MI), House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member, issued the following statement regarding today's Judiciary Committee consideration of a Republican bill making the USA PATRIOT Act permanent:

"House Republicans voted lockstep against common-sense measures to keep dangerous weapons away from terrorists and to fully-fund state and local police departments:

- Republicans twice voted against keeping dangerous firearms out of the hands of terrorists. They voted 15-22 against a Democratic amendment to criminalize the selling of firearms to anyone on an FBI terrorist watchlist. They also voted party-line 13-22 against a Democratic proposal to keep .50-caliber sniper rifles away from terrorists; these rifles have been used to shoot down aircraft and are a favorite of Osama bin Laden's.
- Republicans opposed on procedural grounds a Democratic effort to fully-fund first responders, the state and local police departments that are on the front lines in the war on terrorism. They would not permit this measure to be debated.
- Republicans voted against stronger penalties for those who illegally reveal the names of covert CIA operatives and thus compromise our national security.

"Republicans also flip-flopped on habeas corpus, which allows courts to review government detentions of individuals. They first supported the ability of courts to review detention, then they voted against it on a party-line vote of 14-23.

"Among other things, Republicans opposed Democratic proposals to: protect the health records of American citizens from unnecessary government intrusion; provide limited congressional oversight over the government's use of the PATRIOT Act; protect American citizens from secret wiretaps of their telephone conversations; allow recipients of secret government search warrants to consult their lawyers."

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